



From: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**  
To: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

FYI [http://www.timesleader.com/news/Casey\\_wants\\_EPA\\_to\\_probe\\_well\\_contamination\\_linked\\_to\\_gas\\_drilling\\_04-27-2010.html](http://www.timesleader.com/news/Casey_wants_EPA_to_probe_well_contamination_linked_to_gas_drilling_04-27-2010.html)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 9:03 am

Posted: 1:00 AM  
Updated: 2:51 AM

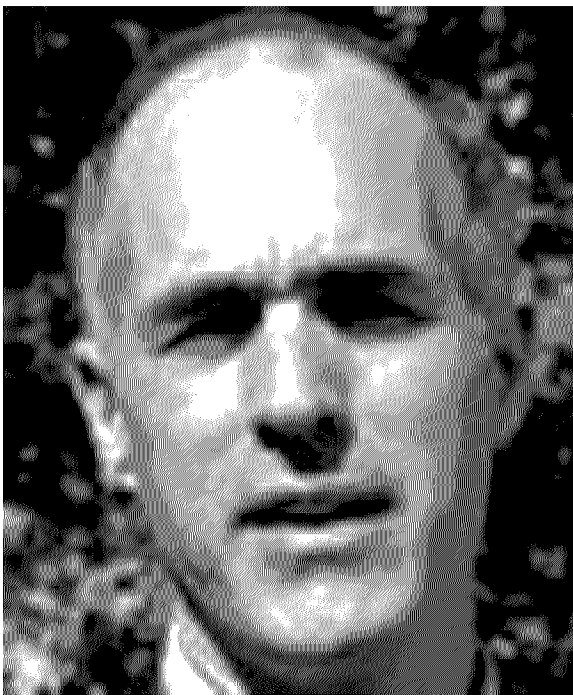
## **Casey wants EPA to probe well contamination linked to gas drilling**

By [Steve Mocarsky](#) [smocarsky@timesleader.com](mailto:smocarsky@timesleader.com)  
Staff Writer

SCRANTON - U.S. Sen. [Robert Casey](#) wants the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to investigate and respond to groundwater contamination that the state has linked to a natural gas well in Susquehanna County.



**[Read more Natural Gas Leases - Marcellus Shale articles](#)**



[click image to enlarge](#)

Casey

### **Related Documents**

- **[Read Senator Casey's letter to the EPA](#)**

[Select images available for purchase in the Times Leader Photo Store](#)

## **ON THE NET**

Read Sen. Robert Casey's letter to the EPA at [www.timesleader.com](http://www.timesleader.com).

In a letter to EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, Casey noted that natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale region has led to job creation, strengthened the state economy and reduced dependence on foreign oil.

However, Casey writes, "the highly variable and unpredictable nature" of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) "that can lead to the contamination of drinking water is of great concern." He noted the gas and oil industry is exempt from complying with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Casey said there are many reasons for requesting EPA involvement, including recent incidents in the state that "raise the question of whether the necessary steps have been taken to protect Pennsylvania families and communities against the detrimental side effects of drilling."

He pointed to methane gas infiltration into private water wells in Dimock Township and noted that several wells have exploded because of a suspected buildup of natural gas.

Casey said the state Department of Environmental Protection fined Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. \$240,000, ordered the plugging of three natural gas wells believed to be the source of the contamination, prohibited Cabot from drilling in the vicinity for one year and required Cabot to install permanent water treatment systems in affected homes.

Casey also noted that, according to DEP, between 6,000 and 8,000 gallons of fracking fluid leaked from a pipe at a drill site and contaminated the surrounding area and a wetland in Susquehanna County in two separate spills on the same day in September 2009 - one in the afternoon that leaked 25 to 50 barrels of fluid, another in the evening that leaked 140 barrels.

“I commend DEP for taking action, but I remain concerned that the current status of federal and state oversight of gas drilling may be inadequate” to protect families living near drilling sites, Casey wrote.

The senator asked for a meeting with appropriate EPA officials to discuss natural gas drilling and whether the agency could investigate water and environmental contamination. He said he hopes Science Advisory Board officials would also attend the meeting to discuss the scope, timing and methodology of a congressionally mandated study the EPA has launched on hydraulic fracturing.

An EPA spokeswoman said officials are reviewing Casey’s letter and expect to respond in the near future.

Steve Mocarsky, a Times Leader staff writer, may be reached at 970-7311.

**This story also appears on the following websites...**  
**[scrantonedition.com](#)**

